Technical Assistance and Support for Arab Acceding Governments
Building Linkages with the Private Sector

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Dr. Mohammad Saeed
Senior Trade Facilitation Adviser
saeed@intracen.org
Trade policy reform is the interaction of:

- International commitments (Multilateral, Regional and Bilateral)
- Public Sector Policy (Interaction of multiple agencies and institutions)
- Private Sector Interests
Public – private partnerships are integral throughout the process of trade policy making…

Structured dialogue ➤ Workable reforms ➤ Reforms that work

- Diagnostic
  - Engagement
  - Definition
  - Empowerment

- Solution Design
  - Consensus building
  - Filtering

- Implementation
  - Ongoing support
  - Watchdog
  - Resources

- Monitoring & Evaluation
  - Watchdog
  - Feedback loop

PPD contributes to all steps of reform process

Source: World Bank
ITC’s has provided support for Accessions to…

- Samoa
- Yemen
- Lao PDR
- Sudan
- Tajikistan
- Uzbekistan
- Iraq

- ✔️ Currently underway
- ✔️ Commencing a project to support Accession
The Accession process involves balancing interests.

- WTO Members’ liberalization requests
- Private Sector Needs
- Legitimate policy objectives
Accession to WTO brings several benefits to acceding Members

- **Greater security and predictability of access to markets** of other WTO Members

- **More business-friendly environment** that helps attract foreign direct investment and increase productivity

- **Greater protection for the private sector** against harmful trade actions by other countries

- **Safeguard national interests** by participating actively in international trade negotiations
Accession brings a number of obligations, which pose challenges for public and private sectors

- Acceding Members are expected to offer access to their markets in goods and services
- They also have to bring their laws, procedures and institutions into conformity with the WTO
Integrating the private sector into WTO Accession related reforms

Private sector understands the impact of WTO Accession – Its Benefits, Challenges and Opportunities

Private sector institutions are enabled to canvass support for and articulate business interests in the WTO Accession process

Government integrates business priorities into negotiating positions and policy/regulatory reforms
Informed drafting of documentation & negotiating positions required for WTO accession process

Enhanced capacity for the development of specific sectoral laws & regulations to align Iraq’s national trade policy with the WTO Rules

Increased policymakers’ understanding of WTO accession process & legal framework

Strengthened national institutional capacity for SPS/TBT & Trade Facilitation compliance in line with WTO obligations

Enhanced awareness of stakeholders, including women’s associations, about WTO accession

ITC Project to Support Iraq’s WTO Accession Process – Funded by the European Union
Thank you for your attention